

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, the Applicant has amended Claims 1, 3, and 6-7 and canceled Claim 2. Claims 1 and 3-32 are pending in the application, with Claims 9-32 being previously allowed. Of the claims which have not yet been allowed, Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 2-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has therefore amended Claim 1 to include all limitations of Claim 2, and canceled Claim 2. Claims 3-8 are dependent from Claim 1 either directly or indirectly. Therefore, Claims 1 and 3-8 are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Rejections of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Nos. 5,857,854 (Kwalwasser); 5,947,738 (Muchle); 2,023,497 (Trammell); 4,829,877 (Zerega); and 2,708,319 (Tratsch). As explained above, Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable, objected to Claim 2. Claim 1 is therefore submitted to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the application is now respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative so that any additional issues may be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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